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January 23, 2001 LB 252

space and, even though that citizen wasn't successful on the grounds that he sued on at that time, the Secretary of State's Office thinks it's conceivable that we could be sued again, and every time we're sued it costs money. It costs \$10,000, it costs \$20,000, and it's really probably something that we should be doing anyway. Now, the bill does provide guidelines for determining whether to accept or reject the write-in vote for President and Vice President. If a first or generally recognized name and last name of a person is written on the lines and the oval has been clearly marked, the vote is valid. If only the last name of a person is written and there is no recognized candidate for President and Vice President with that name, the ballot is rejected. So I believe that is a concise but correct explanation of the bill. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on advancement of LB 252. Open for discussion. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Schimek, could you help me with what the current law is today with regards to write-ins. Let's say that Senator Hartnett wants to run for President. What...what does he want...what does he need to do to run for President in the state of Nebraska?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Do you yield to a question, Senator Schimek?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Well, Senator Kristensen, if he belongs to a recognized party then he goes on the ballot, and a recognized party is a party that got a certain percentage of the vote in the last election.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Okav.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I think that is the only provision for getting on the ballot.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: So...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And the Secretary of State has a certain